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Appl. No. 09/976,928
Amdt. Dated July 2, 2005
Reply to Office Action Mailed May 19, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-21 were pending in the instant application when last examined. Claims 1-3 and 5-21 were rejected in the Office Action. No amendment is made to the claims. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1-3 and 5-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukushima et al. in view of Shavit et al.

In response to this rejection, claim 1 recites in part: *reprocessing the purchase requisition if the purchase requisition exceeds the current budget balance of the said one department.*

Fukushima et al. does not teach reprocessing the purchase requisition if the purchase requisition exceeds the current budget balance of the said one department, as indicated by the Office Action. Shavit et al. does teaches an iterative process of quotation, in which a buyer modifies a request and retransmits the RFQ several times before a final order is processed. However, the buyer of Shavit et al. modifies the request and retransmits the RFQ in an iterative manner because the original bid did not meet his/her conditions, not because the request itself does not meet a predetermined threshold value. In the present invention, when the department posts the purchase requisition on a corresponding terminal unit, the host calculates a total cost of the articles listed in the purchase requisition and a budget balance of the department according to a history of expenses of the department. The host then compares the total cost with the budget balance. If the total cost is greater than the budget balance, the expense management system gives

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the user an exceed budget warning. The user must then reprocess the purchase requisition, such as by abandoning it or modifying it, in order to purchase certain most wanted items and still stay within budget (see paragraph [0026] and [0028]).

Applicant submits that neither Fukushima et al. or Shavit et al., alone or in combination, teaches, discloses, or otherwise suggests the invention as currently set forth in claim 1. Therefore, claim 1, and those claims dependent therefrom, are now patentable over Fukushima et al. in view of Shavit et al.

Regarding claim 9, the expense management system comprises a transaction process module for controlling purchase requisitions *including re-submitted purchase requisitions*, purchase activity and settlement of cost accounts. The transaction process module further comprises a transaction process program for executing specific transactions. The specific transactions include management of purchase requisitions, purchases and budget (see paragraph [0019]). Management of purchase requisitions includes reprocessing a purchase requisition if the purchase requisition exceeds the current budget balance of the corresponding department (see paragraphs [0026] and [0028]). Applicant asserts that the functions implemented using the transaction process module demonstrate that the transaction process module renders the claimed system patentable over Fukushima et al. in view of Shavit et al. for at least the foregoing reasons. Therefore, claim 9 should be allowable.

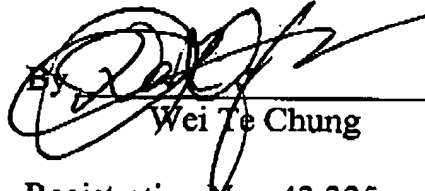
On the premise that amended independent claim 9 is allowable, it is noted that claims 10-21 include all the subject matter of claim 9, and incorporate respective additional subject matter thereinto. Thus, it is submitted that claims 10-21 are also allowable.

In view of the above claim amendments and remarks, the subject application is believed to be in a condition for allowance, and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,


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